

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva November 2017



All went well! Very busy and £325.00 raised so far - £800 over the three years towards Macmillan Cancer Support.

The cakes were enjoyed by everyone from Bishopstone, Hinton and Ashbury before and after the school concert at the church.

Thanks to everyone who came along, ate cake, donated cake and helped out (special thanks to Josie Roussell!). See you all next year.

*Debbie Barnes*

## Harvest Festivals...

...were held in St. Swithun's Church, Hinton on the 24<sup>th</sup> September and St. Mary's Church Bishopstone on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. Produce was taken to the Women's Refuge in Swindon.

*Bishopstone flowers - left, picture by Chris Thomas. More pictures on page 9*

## Bishopstone Craft Fair

Is on

**Thursday 23rd November 6.00 - 8.00 pm - The Village Hall, Bishopstone**

As well as the usual favourites, there will be some new and different stalls ranging from original crafts to home/locally made produce.

A great opportunity for Christmas Shopping, and there could be a special visitor!

For information, please contact Chris Thomas 01793 790 106 email [littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](http://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org) for breaking news



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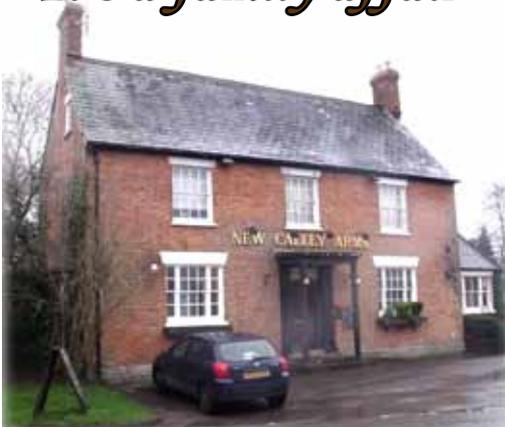
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## A Day in the Life of a Small Builder - 11

I don't know about you, but superstition is not really my thing. Walking under a ladder, seeing a black cat cross the road, Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, magpies, etc. don't get me excited one way or the other. But Jan, a Pole who works with me, tells me that the Polish are very superstitious. Apparently, starting a new job on a Friday is an absolute no-no from what we can understand. For what reason, I have no idea but it has become known as *Cordovah Friday* at Tom's Team. I am not sure about the spelling, or the meaning, of the first word but it is slang at best.

A few Fridays ago, we were working in Hinton Parva with a digger and dumper truck. At the end of the job we hauled them back to HQ for collection. Marcel was moving some gravel around and somehow managed to reverse the dumper into his (my) van. He swears that the machine would not answer to the levers that operate it, continuing to reverse when the lever was in the forward position. It's now being tested to see whether a fault can be detected.

Now this dumper was a small one, narrow, very heavy and quite tall. Later that day, I used it to carry some burnable material to the bonfire here. Tired after a long week, I drove it down the drive, up the verge and decided to shunt an old sofa on the pile to make some space. Mounting the grass verge was alright but, as I barged into the sofa, the dumper lurched even further over to one side. The combination of the oblique angle of the verge and mounting the sofa caused the machine to heel over onto 2 wheels.

Stopping immediately, I made a quick assessment knowing that I was, literally, on the tipping point. Was it going over? It was touch and go, so I decided to leap off in the direction that the dumper was leaning. Swinging my right leg over, I found the footplate and leapt off, moving slightly forward and well clear. As I did so, something clouted my right wrist, bruising it somewhat. The machine did topple

over, landing with an ominous thud, and shaking the ground on impact.

Fuel started pouring from the ill-fitting cap and running down the drive. Shaking slightly, I went inside and found Emma and asked her to come and see my handiwork. Then Marcel and Jan joined the scene, marveling at my recklessness, as we considered how to get it back onto its wheels. Fortunately, the digger was still available so we wrapped a strap or two from the bucket to the dumper and had it upright in a few minutes.

Received wisdom says that one should stay with the machine / ladder / scaffold and not jump but my gut told me otherwise. Jumping the opposite side to which it fell might have been a more natural thought but this can be more dangerous if one is not very quick. Jumping the way I did worked, getting pinned between the tall roll bar and the ground does not bear thinking about.

*Cordovah Friday* – maybe Jan was right all along.

Tom

## Letters to the Editor

### A Good Read

My eagerly awaited Village News has arrived, fully digested (even the adverts) and enjoyed. The front cover is so colourful that it immediately invites you in to devour its contents. It is full of information not only for church matters, but for events that happen in the villages. It is not only informative but the articles provided by the people who send in their memoirs and researches, are both amusing and serious. It is beautifully presented and I love the little boxed areas, often accompanied by a photo or sketches. The boxes draw our eyes to the articles which also tell us about the churches and village life. Well done Mogs! You have a very difficult and time consuming task, and whatever you are doing it's wonderful - please carry on, we need you! Your efforts are much appreciated by all who receive the magazine. I've never seen an acknowledgement of your efforts in the magazine before and I thought I would do so, even though

I do not live in either of the villages. Thanks.

Myra Binks

Thanks again, Mogs! It is always a pleasure to read the *Village News* - I like to be kept in touch with what's happening, even though I've only ever been a visitor.

Your illustrations, now in glorious Technicolour, are great and thoroughly evocative of the Gardening and Flower Show. Some lovely entries, I can see! You write and/or include such interesting articles, about Miss Legge for example, who once lived in the Bishop's Palace in the Close, Litchfield Cathedral, a place I know very well indeed. I would expect there to be some Google images of it. I also find *A Day in the Life of a Small Builder* interesting, as well as the notes on this year's harvest, and the well-chosen words of the Vicar. In other words, not only does it contain practical and useful information regarding forthcoming events but it is informative and entertaining into the bargain. I think you do a brilliant job with it! Keep it up.

Paula

## Editor's Reply

I didn't make these up, honestly, and I feel more than a little immodest sharing them with you. But the newsletter isn't just down to me; I have a great team who work very hard as do our regular contributors, all of whom deserve most of the praise.

By January, if I'm spared, as they say, it will be my tenth year of editing this organ (Finney's word). At the end of 2007, Robin Cardwell, who was then our vicar, told me that a new editor was required and would I like the job? I was horrified. Me? What did I know about editing? Not on your life, I replied. But my first born, who was hanging around at the time chipped in with, *Go on; take it and make it your own*. Being unable to resist a challenge, I did, and now it has doubled in size and we have colour.

We have often discussed having a regular letters page, so please write, even criticise. And if you want to write an article, we'll be thrilled.

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - November

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
BADS	Tuesdays	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Evenings
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
BADS	Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Evenings
Gardening Soc.	Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Skittles	Friday	10 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 - 10.00pm
Craft Fair	Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	All Day
Daily School Dinners (not holidays)	Subject to bookings		11.45 - 1.00pm

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin, or leave a message on the answer phone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent Village Hall. Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

At <http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/bishopstonevillagehall/> you can find a link to more helpful information about the Hall and the terms and conditions of hire.

## Hinton Parva Village Hall - November

Beginners Bridge	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm
Private Booking	Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00 - 4.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Private Booking	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 - 4.00pm
WI	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.30pm
W.I. craft session	Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 - 4.00p.m
Private Booking	Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 - 4.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 1.00pm
Private Booking	Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00 - 4.00pm

The most pretty Hall around, and free parking .

Bookings Secretary Janet 791 391- Please leave a message if required

£6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

£8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties

Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available

Free Parking

## Hinton Harvest Lunch - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September

The lunch followed the Harvest Service at St Swithun's. I do hope you had the chance to see the spectacular flower and harvest display in our historic church.

Arriving at the Village Hall, a wonderful Sunday lunch aroma wafted in the air. The tables were set with vibrant tablecloths and super autumn berry floral arrangements.

Chatter was brought to an end as our Vicar offered grace, and ladies swept in with steaming plates. A choice of delicious shepherd's pie or vegetarian lasagne, followed by fantastic puddings. Roz Boot and Hazel Cooke must take the credit for organising such a welcome venture and raising money for both St Swithun's and the Village Hall. All produced and donated within the village. No wonder that second helpings were in demand.

A memorable afternoon and thanks to all involved.

Very much appreciated.

Howard

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone Annual General Meeting

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Please come and join us and share your ideas - and ours - for events and activities that we can all enjoy in our newly equipped and refurbished hall. We have this great facility - let's get people together to make the most of it!

All welcome.

## Wanborough's Farmers' Market 9.00am - Noon

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Wanborough Village Hall**

**High Street**

**Lower Wanborough**

A wide range of produce is available and you can also have refreshments courtesy of the

**Wanborough Community Cafe**

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 [sbirley@gn.apc.org](mailto:sbirley@gn.apc.org)

## Community Connect

**Wanborough Farmers' Market**

In September, Community Connect joined with the Farmers' Market and £326.46 was given for the Swindon Food Bank. Our thanks to all who came, and who gave so generously to this local charity.

We will again be supporting the Farmers' Market, and the charity of the month will be **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)**. In a society where most live behind closed doors, thousands are desperately poor. Unable to feed their children, incapable of paying to heat their homes in winter, the grip of poverty is relentless. Poverty breaks families apart, and drives many to think that suicide is the only solution. Christians Against Poverty are passionate about releasing people from a life sentence of debt, poverty and their causes. Their vision is to bring help, and freedom from poverty, in every community, including *our* local communities.

Please join us in November, enjoy **free** coffee/tea and delicious home-made cake, stay for a chat, and support CAP and our local Farmers' Market For further information:

Telephone: 790 355 or 791 140.

### Dickie's Diary

I have read that, whereas in France and most other countries people don't want to live in the country, here it is the opposite with many aspiring to the freedom and peace of a place in the countryside. Here we are still blessed with open space, footpaths and panoramic views on the downs, and the historic house (*picture top right*) and woods of Ashdown Park, the home since 1663 of many generations of the Craven family. With other estates extending over twelve counties, their holdings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century ran to 72,000 acres, with Ashdown prominent as a centre for hunting and racing.

Originally Ashdown was an enclosed deer forest. Old maps show the ditch and park pale of the enclosure to the south. Excavations at Alfred's Castle by Oxford University, around the year

2000, also uncovered remnants of a Roman villa and former deep ditches to the north west. A fine silk banner was bequeathed to Ashbury Church in 1924 following the death of Countess Evelyn, the last Craven to live there. It depicts a deer with St Hubert the patron saint of hunting and, having been restored with charity funding, is soon to be displayed once more. Later, the Cravens' interest turned from the deer to the fox. *The Kill at Ashdown Park* is a famous early painting of fox hunting by James Seymour. Painted in 1784 it was acquired by The Tate, and features the view on Weathercock Hill, opposite the house. William, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl, won an early Grand National with Charity in 1841, and the Derby with Wild Dayrell in 1855. He also was an early pioneer of photography, and granted land in Ashbury for the building of the original primary school in 1863. His heir, George Grimston, married Evelyn, and was a long-term master of the Old Berks Hunt. The Cravens' wealth declined,



partly under heavy taxation and also due to the *Curse of the Cravens*, with only one son outliving his mother in ten generations. Ashdown Park was donated to the National Trust in 1957 and the Cravens' legacy lives on, with the house open to the public on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to the end of October. The fine stands of oak, ash and beech in the woods are still a home to fallow deer, woodpeckers and mistle thrushes in the spring, also more recently to ravens and kites. The woodland walks today are a precious, well used, facility on our doorstep for walkers to breathe in some pure downland air.

*Richard Green*

(see also page 10)

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**Rainbow**  
Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall  
Every Thursday during Term Time  
9.30 - 11.00am  
£2.50 per family, 1<sup>st</sup> session free

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## Ashbury School Christmas Fayre

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November

5.00 - 7.00pm

Ashbury School

Join us for a fabulous evening of Christmas cheer, Carols, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Santa's Grotto, Cakes, Tombolas, Christmas Hampers, Raffle Prizes, Competitions and Games. There will also be many beautiful stalls with gorgeous original goodies for all your Christmas shopping under one warm and welcoming roof! Come along and support our little village school!

## Ashbury Farmers' Market

Sadly with the closure of Ashbury pre-school there will be no farmers' market until somebody has been found to continue running it.



## Womens Institute

### - Inspiring Women

Our monthly meeting on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** features guest speaker Tom Arnold with **Stories of those who sailed on the Titanic**. Please join us at **7.30pm in Hinton Parva Village Hall**.

We also have an evening visit arranged for a personal tour of Ramsbury Brewery & Distillery, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. This local estate produces a range of delicious ales, single estate vodka and gin, smoked fish and game, and cold pressed oils - some tasting and, perhaps, an opportunity to get some early Christmas present ideas, as there will be a chance to visit their shop.

We will be holding a crafting afternoon on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**, 1.30 - 3.30pm at Hinton Parva village hall, to make Christmas cards under the expert guidance of member Doris Brown. Doris makes

beautiful handcrafted cards, she will be encouraging use of her decorative tools and sharing her techniques with us. £5 per person includes all materials, tea and cake.

Our Art Lovers Group is proving so popular that, in order to accommodate everyone, we will be enjoying a repeat of our Art Study day (in Wanborough) with Jenny Lyall (art historian and member of NADFASS) on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November - featuring *Ravillious and the art of Colour Red*. We also have a day at The National Gallery in London on 9<sup>th</sup> November where National WI has teamed up with National Gallery experts, including curators, educators and conservation staff for us to learn about the fascinating world of *Children in Art*.

Looking ahead to December, our Christmas celebration evening will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm at Bishopstone Village hall. Hot supper and puddings for all!

Your local WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Lyddington, and we always welcome new members.

Our monthly meeting takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7.30 - 9.30pm in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva village halls, and we have groups which also meet outside of our monthly meeting, e.g. reading, art study and organised trips for members and their friends.

Come along to one of our meetings to see if you like it - no obligation to join unless you want to!

Please contact me if you would like any further information.

Patricia Wells 01793 790 054

## School report -

In the blink of an eye *isingpop* became *isungpop*. It was a fantastic experience for children, staff and parents. After a week of intensive singing, Ashbury CE and Bishopstone CE joined together in St Mary's church for an amazing finale. It was wonderful to see the church bursting at the seams with parents, children excitedly jiggling, and lots of microphones ready to pick up every



utterance! The Values songs were not only sung but had highly exciting dance moves put alongside and were a huge hit . . . So, if you have been passing of late, then the booming pop music is all very much legit! The afternoon was made perfect by Catie and her delicious cakes for sale; what a wonderful achievement for her raising so much money, we are very proud!!

Things in school have now quietened down into the normal daily routines, our new Reception children are finding their feet, with the most mature of the school in Year 6 showing a very caring and nurturing side as they help this process.

We had a visit from the Blue Cross, teaching us how to look after pets and the care that they need (along with a lovely *fluffy* to pat and cooooo over). Our presence was noted at the *turf cutting* ceremony of the new Church of England Secondary school, which is being built near to Waitrose. Rev'd Bill sported a high viz and *hard hat* whilst on this visit and the Bishop of Swindon decided it was more a case of *mud cutting* than turf cutting!

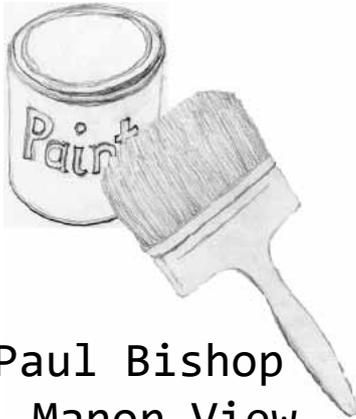
If you think you have seen an odd daytime shooting star . . . that was just our amazing rockets that we have been sending up in Science Club, along with exploring the delights of creating slime!

I have recently been talking with Swindon Museum, they have some beautiful old postcard pictures of Bishopstone which we are exploring and identifying with the children in their topic *Location, location, location*. We will attempt to add to our website . . . once copyright breaches have been explored!

As we hurtle towards half term, (a thoroughly glorious week and a bit and yes . . . despite I hear you saying *you have only just had the summer break* . . . it is much needed), we are gearing up for that . . . dare I say it . . . yes I feel, I just have to share **festive season!** Enjoy the wonderful autumnal colour we intend to get out with cameras once back to capture the glorious countryside around us!

Emma Linsay

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# TOM'S TEAM

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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	7.00pm	All Souls' service (followed by Communion)	Wanborough
All Saints' Day				
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am	Remembrance Service (with Communion)	Lyddington
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent	10.30am	Remembrance Service (with Communion)	Bishopstone
	Remembrance	10.30am	Remembrance Service (with Communion)	Wanborough
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	Sunday next before Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Sunday of Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,  
So where did that year go? It seems to have sped past, and yet so much memorable stuff has happened along the way. November is a traditional time for remembering; for remembering our armed forces in particular. And next year will be particularly poignant as it marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. Each week we remember our Armed Forces in our prayers at Church, especially those who are abroad preserving our security and helping others, as well as the families that they have left at home.

While away recently, I learned of some other heroes that were involved in the Second World War. While Gibraltar was for the most part emptied of its residents, 5,000 people were brought in from England, Wales and Canada. They mined approximately 1% of the entire Rock of Gibraltar, building hospital wards, storage areas, dual carriageways and accommodation for Messrs. Eisenhower and Montgomery. Sixteen hour days in

damp conditions, with a glass of water and fifteen minutes of fresh air each day, the task was completed ahead of time but with the loss of 3,000 of those poor souls in the process.

My guide was a young woman with a passion for her home and its history. As a youngster she would tag along with earlier tours. Some of the tourists she accompanied were relatives of those who had lived, and worked, and died, for the greater good. Just as every Formula One Driver and medical professional needs a good team of support staff, so it is with our armed forces. Something that Gareth Malone brought home to some extent with his Military Wives Choirs. Of course, remembering isn't limited to the sorrow of loss. It is also an opportunity to give thanks for what that loss, that price, achieved.

As a Christian, I look forward to

meeting and thanking those who gave their lives for the peace and the freedom that we enjoy, for the innovation and invention that hard pressed men and women were able to achieve, having done so in some of the most difficult circumstances that any human being may have had to experience. I also look forward to meeting those, who they thought it was all worth doing it for. It's for this reason that the words, *A life without Christ is a hopeless end, yet life with Christ is an endless hope.*, carry so much depth and meaning. He's the reason for the Season next month, but more of that next time. For now, however you choose to remember important moments in history, it is my prayer that they leave you for the most part; thankful for our past, and hopeful for our future.

With best wishes and prayers

Bill

### Christmas Open House at the Vicarage

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

You are very welcome to call in anytime between 7.00pm & 10.00pm

R.S.V.P. to: [villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk) or

The Vicarage, 19 Church Road, Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

## Church Wardens' Activities

We have held our PCC meeting and we continue to make good progress thanks to a dedicated and competent team who have a common goal. Politicians, please take note. This is quite rare and I want to applaud some of the people who give their time, talent, money, skills, and effort for our benefit.

Let's start with Bill. What a guy. He is funny, incredibly patient, experienced, clever, and easy to work with. Thank you Bill for all you do, and for all those you have helped to date.

Alan Taylor joint chairs each meeting, preparing meticulously, and is exceptional at interpreting unbelievably complicated Church protocol, procedure and red tape. As well as this, he, Doug Stevens and John Lowry have contributed practically to the fabric of St. Mary's inside and out. That awful brown on the doors is now Royal Blue, or is that Oxford Blue? And the ringing gallery is John's design, soon to be joined by new heating.

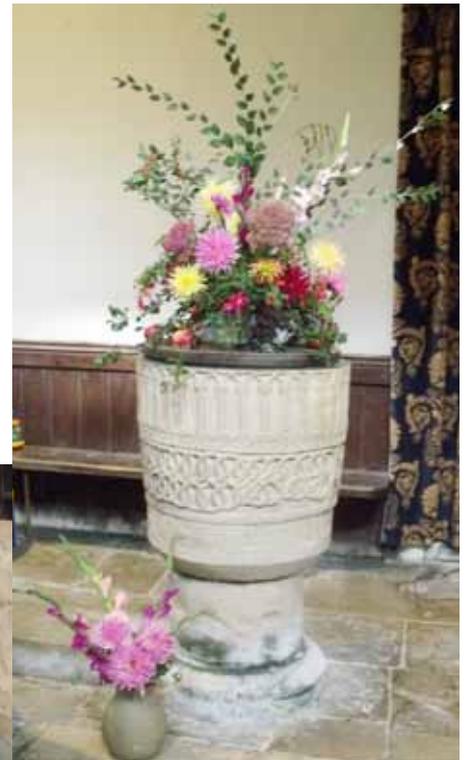
But there are dozens more. Mogs' work with the Parish Magazine and flowers, the choir which turns up on even the most miserable winter evenings at St. Swithun's. Those who set up for the service, thank you Mike, and Peter the Organist. How about the Churchyards, cemetery, cleaning the brass and windows? Or how about Angie Alcock who has taken responsibility for collecting money for advertising in the parish magazine all

these years? Do you know who winds the clock and bells at St. Mary's? Nearly all of this work is carried out by volunteers and I want to thank all of them and ask you to do the same. We really are lucky that they commit to keeping these activities going, as they make an enormous contribution. Let's put aside any small disagreements, petty grudges and old feuds to realise that together we are happier and can achieve so much more.

*Tom*



*More harvest pictures, this time from St. Swithun's*



### PCC Meeting

7.30pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
Cheney Thatch,  
Bishopstone

### Prayers

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

telephone - 790 088

email - [villageprayers@gmail.com](mailto:villageprayers@gmail.com)

*Bill*

## From the Benefice Register

### Baptisms

#### *St Andrew's Wanborough*

16<sup>th</sup> September

17<sup>th</sup> September

Sam & Isobel Faria.

Ayda Rose Beatrix Drury

## Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

**November** Karen Stevens & Sheila Collins

**December** Fran Shiston & Gill White

Many thanks to all those who have helped to keep our church cared for and clean. We always welcome more volunteers on the rota; if you, or anyone you know, might like to join us

*Sarah Best 791 121*

## Parish Contacts

**The Vicar:** the Rev Bill O'Connell  
The Vicarage, Church Road,  
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359

[villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk)

### **The Churchwardens: St. Mary's**

John Lowry 01793 790 271

[john1000000@live.com](mailto:john1000000@live.com)

Doug Stevens 01793 791 107

[doug@mowerfixer.co.uk](mailto:doug@mowerfixer.co.uk)

Alan Taylor 01793 791 666

[R2attayloralan@aol.com](mailto:R2attayloralan@aol.com)

### **The Churchwardens: St. Swithun's**

Tom Cripwell 01793 791 148

[tomcripwell@gmail.com](mailto:tomcripwell@gmail.com)

Emma Cripwell 01793 791 148

[emma@angelpublicity.com](mailto:emma@angelpublicity.com)

### **The Acting Secretary:**

Alan Taylor - Charlbury Cottage,  
Westend, Bishopstone, SN6 8PT

01793 791 666

[R2attayloralan@aol.com](mailto:R2attayloralan@aol.com)

### **List of Other PCC Members:**

Karen Stevens (Treasurer)

01793 791 107

[kschurchview@gmail.com](mailto:kschurchview@gmail.com)

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

[thecourthouse@gmail.com](mailto:thecourthouse@gmail.com)

# Bishopstone Gardening Society



I'm very grateful that Graeme Jago agreed to stand in at such late notice as my Tree Quiz was not shaping up particularly well. In fact, there was a likelihood that some other form of entertainment would be needed to top up the evening. Mogs's axe, throwing maybe?

Graeme's portfolio includes gardening, photography and talking, which he did in an enjoyably humorous way, accompanied by a lovely slide show of his own photographs. His talk, *A Guide to Tree Happiness*, centered



around the use of smaller trees where garden space is limited. Some of the trees recommended for a smaller garden were: Weeping Prunus with its lovely cherry pink double blooms; Magnolia heaven scent, which produces much daintier flowers than its larger specimens; Shrimp willow, or, *Salix integra Hakuro-nishiki* (just trips off the tongue, doesn't it); John Downie crab apple, a favourite for jelly making, having a long season of interest with pink buds opening to reveal pretty white cup shaped blossom in April and May, followed by large orange and red fruits in autumn. Anything left on the tree will be snapped up by hungry birds over winter. Also recommended were; the slender sized Mountain Ash, Japanese maple, (the smaller leaved variety) with its brilliant coloured foliage, and the beautifully shaped Royal Burgundy Prunus.

Having a smaller garden ourselves,

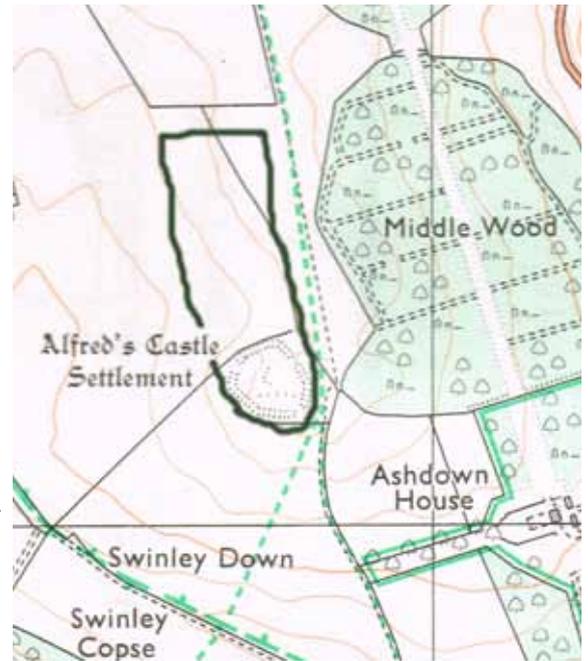
we've already planted two flagpole cherries to give height and interest with masses of blossom in the spring, and they don't take up valuable room or cast shade over everything else. And right now, it's prime tree buying time. You can get a lot more for your money by going for a bare-root (dormant) or root balled tree, but do plant before the end of March if possible. New stock, generally released in September, are container grown trees and are always more expensive. Apart from copious watering over a couple of years to get the new tree established, Graeme's advice is to stake the tree at a low level which anchors the roots, allowing it to get a good grip for many blustery seasons to come. Remove the stake after about three years unless the tree is particularly top-heavy and likely to tip over. Here is Graeme's recommended tree shopping list:

Tree;  
Hole;  
Stake;  
Tie (because appearances matter);  
Planting compost;  
Rabbit guard;  
Bone meal;  
Tea bags & biscuits

Our next, and last meeting for this year, is on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**, when we'll be holding our **AGM & American Supper**, which is open to everyone. Please bring a contribution to the food, a cold platter for all to share would be best and then we don't have to heat it! Quiche or sausages on sticks will be very welcome but some of you may want to be more adventurous and bring something a bit different – go on – surprise us ...

**Bishopstone Village Hall, 7:00pm** for 7:30pm start. Raffle/Tea/coffee/biscuits. Visitors always welcome: £2 per person on the door. You can contact Sheila and Sarah at:

[banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com](mailto:banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com)



## Ashdown -More Thoughts

I was so interested to read Dickie's Diary (*page 5*), it brought back happy memories of when I was part of the Oxford team who excavated at Alfred's Castle, almost 20 years ago.

The ditch that he mentioned, I have drawn, hopefully fairly accurately, on the map above. Cut 2 metres into the chalk it was huge, U shaped in profile, and sub rectangular, approximately 3,000 years old, forming a Bronze Age enclosure. There were also the remains of two Bronze Age round barrows. This ditch must have been filled in; some time later as, during the Iron Age it was recut with a smaller V shaped profile. At its southern edge, a bank and ditch was constructed, presumably to protect the Iron Age round houses inside. Later, the occupants modernised and built a small Roman villa, interestingly just about 2 kilometres east of their neighbours at Starveall Farm. It is this bank and ditch which has become known as Alfred's Castle. Sadly, we found not a trace of Alfred, or, indeed anything Saxon.

*Ed*

## Bishopstone 100 club

### October Winners

1<sup>st</sup> 37 Dr. Jeremy Harding

2<sup>nd</sup> 99 Marie-Noelle Witty

3<sup>rd</sup> 46 Tom May.

*Jo 790 485*

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## The Royal Oak Diary

Having just sailed round Cape Horn, although there weren't actually any sails involved, it was a bit of a shock to get back to Bishopstone and find you all basking in 13 degrees of heat. And to find that I'd missed the first rehearsal of the next village play, **Murder in Play**. I don't think there are any trouser-less scenes this year, which will come as a disappointment to some of you. But apparently it's funny, and probably a bit too clever—for the cast, anyway. We set ourselves a low benchmark, as you know. Performance is January, and for the 25<sup>th</sup> successive year, the ticket price, unfathomably, remains at £6.00. For everyone! Starring this year Tom Green with trousers, Millie Green (a strong audition, aided by her mate Harvey Weinstein—don't sue me, please), Belinda Nicholls (all glamour), Louise Wilson (new name, same face), the pub landlord, Val Brodin representing The Hinton Parva mob, possibly new boy Italian starlet Valerio Reale, probably looking forward to the kissing scenes. Clive Hill has the annual thankless task of pulling this crew together, and he can be beastly! Tickets from pub at some point, and the farm office—Carolyn Curtis on 01793

790 460. Russell Hobbs has overseen the erection of the new curtains in the hall, of which he is very proud. He, helped by the estimable Mogs Boon, who always misses her prompts, will take charge of the incredibly complex technical arrangements, (ie ringing phones, doorbells and lights, not always at the same time.) If anyone else wishes to assist our whole performance, during rehearsals, or the performance itself, or any other jobs, please contact Russell or Clive.

Pub wise, **Bonfire night** is the next village agenda item. **5.00pm, Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> November**. We can start to take your sensible burnable stuff in week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October, please do not just drop it, come and talk to us about where we'd like it. This is a gratis village event staged by us, as ever, and your constructive support would be appreciated. Common sense, as ever; look after those you bring with you; keep an eye on any stupid behaviour, please.

One of the joys of being a small hotelier in a village such as this, and in the middle of the farm, is the amount of people who stay with us who request a farm tour. Usually at weekends. It occurred to me that some within these villages might also like a slightly more educational and entertaining farm tour at the same time, so

you ought just to contact us, and we'll try to dovetail these events. The most common time currently for a farm trip is about 10.30am on Sundays, so, if it's of interest, let us know and we'll try to get you in the landrover.

I have deliberately avoided my normal monthly Brexit polemic this time around, since I am aware of the dark cloud of censorship hanging over this column. I have decided, for the peace of the PCC, to abide by the Government mantra, *the will of the people*, who have in their infinite wisdom decided to ...ah well, you know the rest. Our pork exports to North Korea begin next month.



TF

**New: Curtains for the village Hall**  
Notices posted in the hall inform us:

**All curtains now have Pull Cords**  
**Located to the right-hand side**  
**(except when they are on they left)**

You may not have questioned the apparent ambiguity, why the pull cords can be on the right and the left? However, after exhaustive investigation we can report that this qualification applies only to the new stage curtains and it depends upon your point of view. Right, to an amateur dramatist is *stage left*. To most of us (the audience) it will be *all right* on the night?

Glad that's all cleared up then.

**Pyrotechnics - BADS philosophical about decision?**

It is rumoured that the Hall Committee have rejected the use of pyrotechnic effects for the highly anticipated BADS production. When interviewed the director, Clive Hill, commented, *Perhaps it's not a bad thing, after all, getting the telephone to ring on cue has always proved a challenge.*



Bob – roving, unpaid etc.  
**next production will be:**

**Murder in Play**  
**by Simon Brett**

**10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

**The Village Hall, Bishopstone**

We will feature the usual comedy, whether intended or not, and it will be a good chance to try out the new hall curtains. Look out for details on tickets and pre-theatre suppers in due course.

Tom Green



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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

I was researching holiday locations this week and a couple of things struck me. The first is that, given the choice of concentrating on exotic foliage and awe-inspiring waterfalls, or spiders and snakes, one member of the holiday party always focuses on the Wrong Thing. No jungle safaris for me, it seems, as my Dearly Beloved is far too sensible to allow a bit of water falling dramatically and picturesquely from a height to distract him from the clear and present danger of a Nasty Bite . . . I discussed this with my cousin, an inveterate traveller to parts highly exotic. She advised that snakes will always run from you, provided you stamp your feet as you cross the jungle floor, and said that on none of her jungle adventures had a spider ever fallen on her.

With this in mind, I tried to think of anyone I knew who had come a cropper on holiday. Apart from some nasty cases of sunburn, (collected, in one case, on the first day of a honeymoon, thus putting a considerable dampener on the rest of the fortnight), I could think of no holiday incidents of note. I even know people who rather rashly, spent their honeymoon skiing, and got away with it (I was never really sure why they chose to risk broken bones on the slopes - perhaps they'd heard of the sunburn risk of beach honeymoons). Having established that holidays seem generally benign affairs, my thoughts turned to the more mundane.

Only this week, a gym acquaintance reappeared after a lengthy break. *Where've you been, I asked, Somewhere fabulous? No, she replied, I've been injured.* Obviously, I thought, this injury must have been sustained through a dramatic dive on a tennis court, or while overdoing things on a higher-than-advisable number on the treadmill. Not so; it turned out she'd got horrific blisters on her heels while out for a walk, and been unable to wear shoes for a fortnight . . .

That's not to say that treadmills are always innocent, however; just ask our friend Bill\*, then aged 45, who decided to see how long he could

run at the speed he'd run as a teenager. Turned out that it was no time at all – he turned up the treadmill to the required speed and was promptly flung off the back of it, to the surprise of the chap running along at a modest pace beside him.

Several years ago, I broke a metatarsal. I was in good company, as David Beckham was on the bench at the time with a similar injury. I suspect his fracture wasn't sustained while putting away an ironing board, however. Indeed, simply putting away the ironing itself can be hazardous, witness the friend who had a nasty fall when accessing the shelves at the top of the airing cupboard by balancing on a chair at the top of the stairs. . . Housework can be a dangerous business.

Then there's eating breakfast. This seemingly innocuous start to the day seems to be particularly risky – surely it's no coincidence that I know at least three people who have lost teeth while simply eating their morning meal? Who knew that in the dental world, weetybix\* and cocopoops\* are known as cereal killers? So, I'm off to book that jungle idyll – it seems the safer option.

\*Names have been changed to protect the innocent and to avoid upsetting cereal manufacturers, (though I'm not sure why, as Bill lives miles away and doesn't actually read this newsletter, and I think the same is probably true of cereal manufacturers).

Mrs. Mantelpiece

## And Almost Finally.....



Oh Mrs. Mantelpiece, you reminded me of my honeymoon, back in the mists of time. It should have been the most romantic ever, on a deserted

tropical island, only thing was that we had to take my mother. Well, she had travelled half way across the world to attend the wedding, so we couldn't just leave her...The funniest thing was, one day we were getting in the boat, somehow she missed and fell in the sea, hysterical with laughter; it took us ages to fish her out.

Last month I told you that I was going for battle axe training, so thought it only fair to report on the results. Actually, I was rubbish with knives and axes, but better at throwing shovels, appropriate for an archaeologist. Angie has been doing the advertising invoicing, brilliantly, for the last 9 years, stepping in to help me, even though she no longer lives in the parish. Thank you so much, your help has really been appreciated.

mogs

## ADVERTISING

This is what pays for the newsletter to be printed and now Doug Stevens [doug@mowerfixer.co.uk](mailto:doug@mowerfixer.co.uk) has kindly volunteered to take over the paper work. We must warn you that adverts received without payment will not be included. For people with small, one-off advertisements there is a minimum fee of £1.00.

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**The copy deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month but please send large items as early as possible.** Don't forget copy must include name and contact details for validation purposes.

The newsletter is delivered free of charge to all households in the two villages; donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Doug.

## CONTACT

email: [mogsboon@hotmail.com](mailto:mogsboon@hotmail.com)  
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